

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66615

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:ROHOMME:RP

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN

EUR/WE:REBARBOUR

S/S-O:MTANNER

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P 292243Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT PARIS 22157 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

THE HAGUE LONDON LISBON EC BRUSSELS NATO AUG 28

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S E C R E T PARIS 22157

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SREF EAID PO FR N GW AO UK

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED

DEMARCHES

REF: PARIS 21854; STATE 204463

SUMMARY: FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED AGAINST MAKING

DEMARCHE TO PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ PARALLEL

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TO OURS BECAUSE IT IS FELT THAT COMMUNIST CONTROLLED

MEDIA WOULD EXPLOIT SUCH ACTION TO DETRIMENT OF MODERATES. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WILL, HOWEVER, CALL IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR EARLY NEXT WEEK TO EXPRESS GOF CONCERN AT SITUATION IN LISBON, AND REITERATE PREVIOUS WARNING THAT EC-9 WILL NOT PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL CALLED ME TO THE QUAI THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO RECEIVE REPLY TO OUR REQUEST THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR MAKE DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMEZ IN SUPPORT OF ONE ALREADY MADE BY AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI (REFTELS). DE COURCEL SAID REPLY WAS APPROVED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

2. DE COURCEL SAID GOF VIEWS PORTUGUESE SITUATION WITH SAME PREOCCUPATION AS USG. FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHARES OUR POINT OF VIEW AND HAS SAME OBJECTIVE IN PORTUGAL. HE RECALLED THAT GOF WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE STRONGEST ADVOCATE IN EC-9 OF POLICY TO WITHHOLD ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL UNTIL THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES WILL BE FOLLOWED. HE SAID QUAI HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LISBON ON CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI. THEY WERE AWARE, THEREFORE, THAT MODERATES IN LISBON WERE IN FAVOR OF ALLIED DEMARCHES TO COSTA GOMEZ.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR, GOF HAS DECIDED IT IS TOO RISKY TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMEZ AS SUGGESTED. NEWS MEDIA IN PORTUGAL ARE SUBSTANTIALLY CONTROLLED BY COMMUNISTS, AND GOF FEARS THAT STREAM OF WESTERN DEMARCHES WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO DETRIMENT OF MODERATE CAUSE.

4. BECAUSE GOF SHARES OUR PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO CALL IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WHEN THEY BOTH RETURN TO PARIS EARLY NEXT WEEK. SAUVAGNARGUES WILL EXPRESS GOF CONCERN ABOUT COURSE OF EVENTS IN LISBON AND WILL

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REMIND PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THAT EC-9 WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING WITH ASSISTANCE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THAT PORTUGAL IS TAKING PATH TOWARD PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY.

5. IN FINAL NOTE, DE COURCEL SAID GOF WILL BE SENDING A FEW MORE FLIGHTS TO LUANDA TO RETURN PORTUGUESE REFUGEES TO LISBON TO TERMINATE PURELY HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BEGUN ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE REQUESTED GOF

ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING PORTUGUESE REFUGEES IN
NAMIBIA, BUT GOF RESPONDED NEGATIVELY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE206709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ROHOMME:RP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750300-0528
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975083/aaaaacqz.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 PARIS 21854, 75 STATE 204463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, PO, FR, GE, AO, UK
To: BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006